

App Type	Due Dates	Explained
Regular Decision	Usually January 1-15 Sometimes as early as Nov 1 Sometimes as late as Feb 15	- You are applying with the majority of applicants - Aim to be done before winter break*
Early Decision (ED)	Between October 15-Nov 15	- You can only apply to ONE SCHOOL Early Decision - Binding—you must go if you get in! - Often higher acceptance rate - Often more competitive applicant pool - Shows schools they're your #1 - Decisions come to you in December
Early Decision II (EDII)	Around Dec 15-Jan 15	- You can only apply to ONE SCHOOL Early Decision - Due around Regular Decision time - Binding—you must go if you get in! - Often higher acceptance rate - Often more competitive applicant pool - Shows schools they're your #1 - Decisions come to you in February
Early Action (EA)	Between October 15-Nov 15	- Apply to as many schools as you want EA! - NON-Binding—you are NOT committing to go if you get in! - Sometimes higher acceptance rate or higher chance of merit scholarship - Often more competitive applicant pool - Shows schools you're organized enough to get it in early - Decisions come to you in December - January
Restrictive Early Action (REA)	Between October 15-Nov 15	- You can only apply to ONE SCHOOL REA (Stanford does this) - NON-Binding—you are NOT committing to go if you get in! - Sometimes higher acceptance rate - Often more competitive applicant pool - Shows schools you're organized enough to get it in early - Decisions come to you in December
Rolling Admission	Pretty much anytime! (varies)	You apply and decisions come shortly after!

Early Decision

vs.

Early Action

vs.

Regular Decision

Apps typically due around Nov.
Decisions sent out in Dec.

Apps due sometime in fall
Decisions sent out Dec. - Feb.

Apps due between Jan. 1 - Feb. 1
Decision dates vary

PROS

- An early acceptance letter means the stressful process is over sooner!
- Schools know your commitment, so your chances can be (slightly) increased.

PROS

- You'll get an early decision, but it's not binding
- You don't need to withdraw your other applications if you're accepted

PROS

- Later deadlines mean you have longer to perfect your applications
- You aren't committed to any school, so it's perfect if you want to keep your options open

CONS

- An acceptance is binding, and you must withdraw applications from other schools.
- Beware of senioritis: don't let your grades slip just because you got in early!

CONS

- You still have to prepare your other applications, just in case—the Regular Decision deadline falls right after decisions are mailed out.

CONS

- A large, general applicant pool means stiff competition
- You won't receive a decision until later, so you'll be on pins and needles for longer!

DO THIS IF...

You have one dream school

DO THIS IF...

You love one particular school, but still want to keep your options open

DO THIS IF...

You like a lot of schools, and want to weigh all of your options